

AMHERST COLLEGE

Amherst, Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

May 5, 1952

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

It has been a year since my pleasant visit with you and Esther took place in Madison. Dinner by the lake was most enjoyable. Many things have happened since that meeting, but most important to me has been the realization that I would prefer to do research rather than to teach. It is not that I dislike teaching, but I find that my desire to do research prevents me from doing justice to my teaching. Since teaching is perhaps one of the most important contributions that one can make to society my conscience begins to bother me when I feel that I might not be doing a proper job. Because of this I have cut down on my research, but as a consequence I have become unhappy. I am afraid that I can only be satisfied when I can work in the laboratory or the field for long, uninterrupted periods until I am exhausted. It is difficult for me to see any solution to this problem. My desires are not motivated by any dislike for Amherst, for I find the college pleasant, the facilities good, and the salary satisfactory. Perhaps the most intelligent thing to do would be to hold on here, but I just do not know. I am aware that there are few places where one can work in the manner which I have indicated; maybe some sort of research associateship or assistantship would solve the problem.

As you can see I am in sort of a muddle, and I would greatly appreciate hearing your thoughts on the matter.

Regards to Esther.

Sincerely,



R. P. Levine